

REMARKS**Summary of the Office Action**

Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Jones et al. (US 6,417,899).

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 1-14 are allowable, and that claims 16 and 17 recite allowable subject matter.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have amended claims 15 and 17 to further define the invention, and canceled claim 16. Accordingly, claims 1-15 and 17 are pending for consideration.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Jones et al. (US 6,417,899). Applicants respectfully assert that claim 15 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 16. In addition, Applicants respectfully assert that allowable claim 17 has been amended to incorporate the combination of features recited by originally-filed claim 15. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1-14 and claims 15 and 17, as presently amended, are now in clear condition for allowance.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request issuance of a Notice of Allowance for claims 1-15 and 17.

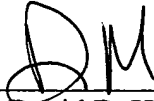
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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